

Resolution of the UAW International Executive Board for the Release of Unjustly Charged and Imprisoned Trade Unionists in South Korea

Whereas President Han Sang-gyun of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) has spent his life fighting for the rights of workers.

- Han has been in jail since December 2015 for defending trade union rights and fighting against corporate corruption and the repressive government of impeached President Park Gyun-hye. Additionally, KCTU General Secretary Lee Young-joo remains under house arrest, pursuant to an arrest warrant, and many other Korean trade union leaders remain incarcerated.
- President Han's career as a labor leader has been marked by bold action including a successful campaign to organize a union in his auto manufacturing plant and a campaign that saved hundreds of jobs and won severance benefits for those whose jobs could not be saved.
- Han's heroic actions have included plant occupations, sit-ins and demonstrations. As the first elected President of the KCTU, Han mobilized workers against anti-labor legislation and government corruption in a series of peaceful demonstrations.
- The government of former President Park Gyun-hye responded with police brutality, mass arrests and harsh sentences, however, the South Korean labor movement, global unions and civil society, led by Han and others, forced the impeachment and removal from office of President Park.

Whereas, the new South Korean government under President Moon Jae-in is committed to human rights and labor rights, and

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has found that:

The deprivation of liberty of Sang-gyun Han, being in contravention of...
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and...the International Covenant
on Civil and Political Rights, is arbitrary...

Therefore, be it resolved that the International Union, UAW and its International Executive Board call on the Government of the Republic of Korea to rescind all sentences and drop all charges against trade unionists that are related to peaceful protest, including those against President Han and General Secretary Lee.

We further call on the Government of the Republic of Korea to immediately release President Han and all other trade unionists incarcerated pursuant to sentences and charges related to peaceful protest.

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